12/28/77

Mr. Robert O. Goff, FOIA/PA Officer
U.S.Secret Service
1800 G. St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20023

Dear Mr. Goff,

It has been about a year since I appealed to Mr. Lilburn Boggs what was a de facto denial of my PA request for all records on or about me. I recall no response. I am aware that I can sue. If possible I'd prefer to avoid this, as you know from years ago, when I accepted your word and Tom Kelley's. I write you again in the hope that you and the rest of the Secret Service will stop the stonewalling and comply, fully and honestly, and eliminate the need. I also ask that if you do not this letter be forwarded as another appeal, albeit an unnecessary one under the provisions of the Act.

In the past year I have learned much more and have obtained records by pther means and from other official sources. I am not going to go into all of this now. Instead I'll provide a cpuple of illustrations.

In C.A. 76-0227 the Secret Service provided a list of certain records. While the list is incomplete as it applies to me it is of at least a page and a half, single-spaced, as it applies to me, I am told. You have not provided me with all the records listed although they are clearly within my request. As an example I cite the 4/3/71 item "liaison div. request for name check." I also have not received the results of the name check.

Because response has been incomplete, because you are still withholding records, including those that are grossly defamatory, I am not able to utilize my rights under PA. In this I believe you have converted deliberate non-compliance into a means of denying me my rights under the Act.

An example of this is what may figure in serious health impairment, what the Secret Service told the Maryland State Police about me and what it asked of them relating to me. Someone fabricated the report that I had threatened to shoot down a Presidential helicopter. (If I had wanted to I was not in a position to, not with no more armament than I needed to shoot rats in the henhouse and snapping turtles in our small farm pond.) This was an infamous fabrication. For all the Secret Service's responsibility for Presidential protection it should have done minimal checking before libelling me so seriously in the area in which I then lived and still live.

One aspect of the permanent damage to me is what follows.

For years, because I have led a sedentary life and have a few orthopaedic problems, my one form of good exercise was walking. Living on the side of a mountain as I do I used to walk uphill on the way out to have downhill on the return, when I was tired. After I was set upon by bad dogs, whose owners often enough were of like character, the local police advised me to carry a pistol. I obtained a holster for a fine but antique pistol that had belonged to my wife's grandfather and was able to walk with some security. The dogs and their owners both recognized a pistol. This is not a figure of speech about the owners. When I asked the dog warden to investigate and he left notices that include the ordnance about free-running dogs, one tried to do me serious injury. He could have killed me with a rock twice the size of a baseball. It just barely missed my head. The rest of his charge ended when he saw my hand go to the holster. I never again had trouble from him or his dog. Or from others, all of whom left me alone to walk and exercise and keep myself in health in peace.

Then Maryland passed a gun law. Because I had been endangered, because this had been the cause of more than one police investigation, I did qualify for a gun permit under the law. But those who decided happened to be those you told I was some kind of maniac who

presented a danger to the President - had threatened to kill him. So I was denied a permit and was thereafter unable to walk as I had. I was never able to learn the basis of denial so I could appeal it. And I lacked the means of engaging counsel to sue.

After a period of this drastically reduced physical activity I suffered acute thrombophlebitis in both legs and thighs. The damage is permaent. If it does not shorten my life it has drastically reduced what I am able to do. More recently I have learned of another obstruction, in the arteries in addition to the veins.

According to a number of medical experts these circulatory problems correlate with physical exercise. Dr. Alton Ochsner is one who figures in your JFK investigation.

Perhaps you people are now embarrassed, by this or by other factors.

I do not know. But I do know that you have not complied with my request under PA.

You also have a dubious record with regard to my JFK FOIA requests. You, personally, were involved in them. I took your word and Tom Kelley's, little dreaming of the double dealing that ensued. Other agencies have provided records.

Of course this also was hurtful to me and to my work, as it was costly to me. I would prefer to believe that the Secret Service and the officials involved would welcome an opportunity to attempt to undo this - outside of court. A gesture in this direction would be to waive fees in supplying me all it has released that it denied to me by falsely representing that it had transferred everything to the National Archives, without retaining any copies in its own files.

These matters are not just going to go away. When I was taken ill and particularly because I was also getting older I established an estate.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg